

## **REMARKS**

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1-5 will remain pending.

The Examiner has objected to claim 4 on grounds of a typographical error. Claim 4 has been amended to make the appropriate change from “comprising if” to “comprising of.”

The examiner has rejected original claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) on grounds of obviousness. Claims 1-2 and 4-5 have been rejected as being unpatentable over McKinley in view of Hansen. Claim 3 has been rejected over McKinley in view of Hansen as applied to claims 1-2 and 4-5, and further in view of Katsen.

Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be reconsidered in view of the foregoing Amendment and the Remarks set forth herein. Applicant submits that the amended claims contain no additional matter not present in applicant's original application.

Independent claim 1, as amended, recites a “substantially circular platform means disposed centrally transversely of said core.” The platform is configured to support a water treatment medium thereon. The limitations of claim 1 as amended, are neither disclosed nor suggested by the primary reference issued to McKinley, or any other reference of record.

McKinley teaches an optional spacer element 112 having an opening 114 at its middle, i.e., an annular spacer, which may be placed at the center of the

filtering unit column 104 for enhanced structural support. The McKinley spacer, as part of the structural design, does not disclose a platform as defined by claim 1 wherein a circular platform is disposed centrally of the core and adapted to support a water treatment medium. Because McKinley in combination with Hansen does not teach or suggest each limitation of applicant's filter as claimed, it is requested that the rejection of claims 1 (and depending claims 2-4) be withdrawn.

Amended claim 5 recites the additional limitation of "a substantially circular, *grid-like* platform means disposed centrally transversely of said core," which is a structure different from, and not disclosed or suggested by the filter mechanisms of McKinley or any cited reference. It is therefore, believed that claim 5, as amended, is clearly patentable.

In view of the foregoing, the specific claims as now set forth are believed to be patentable and, therefore, withdrawal of the rejections and passage to allowance is solicited.

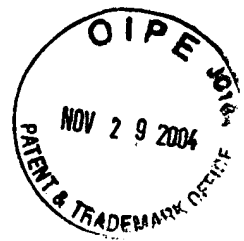
Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael A. Cornman", written over a horizontal line.

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